(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Extension of Rail Services Backward Areas

1052. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY
KUMARI UMA BHARATI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rail services have not been extended to the backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any special schemes for expansion of rail services in the backward areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. The regions including backward areas having rail network are served by passenger carrying trains.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There are plans to develop new railway lines in the North East Region, Jammu & Kashmir.

Similarly, gauge conversions have been planned is a big way to open up the backward areas of the country. Consequent to the development of the rail network, further expansion of rail services will be planned in future.

[English]

Extension of Railway Line upto Kandla Port

1053. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Gandhidham railway line upto Kandla port and convert it into Broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above line is likely to be extended and converted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) A broad gauge line already exits between Gandhidham and Kandla Port in addition to the MG line.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Stay of Howrah-Bokaro Train at Bokaro Railway Station

1054. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Howrah-Bokaro Train after its arrival at Bokaro Railway station, stops for five hours;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to extend the said Train upto Ranchi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) 2019/2020 Howrah-Bokaro Shatabdi Express has lieover of 4 hrs. 45 mts. at Bokaro Steel City.

(c) There is no proposal for its extension upto Ranchi due to operational constraints.

[English]

Telephone Exchange for Allahabad

1055. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for setting up of telephone exchanges in Allahabad during the current Plan period and the amount earmarked therefor;

(b) the places in Allahabad where the telephone exchanges have been set up so far and the places where the work is in progress; and

(c) the time by which the on-going telephone exchanges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The details of target set for setting up telephone exchanges in Allahabad during the current plan period is given in the enclosed statement-I. The amount earmarked is Rs. 164.2 Lakhs.

(b) The details are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) By March 1997.

STATEMENT-I

Targets in respect of setting up of Telephone Exchanges in Allahabad during the Current Plan period (1996-97)

	Name of Exchanges	Capacity planned
	1	2
1.	Allahabad	1000 Lines (13K-14K)
2.	Allapur	1000 Lines (4K-5K)